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RIDICULES REPORT OF CHINESE COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN BURMA;
WARNS NATIONALIST CHINESE ON ILLEGAL FLAG DISPLAY

Summary: Anti-KMT sentiment is expressed in two items appearing in the News and Notes sections on the editorial pages of two conservative Burmese newspapers. The independent Hanthawaddy ridicules a Hong Kong news release claiming the Communist Chinese are building airfields near Moulmein and are collaborating with the Karens. The paper comments that there is more likelihood that the Nationalists are so engaged. The progovernment Myanma Alin asks the pro-Nationalist Chinese in Rangoon not to display their flag again on Burmese Independence Day (January 4) since such a display last year hurt Burmese relations with Communist China.

The editorial comments follow.]

COMMENTS ON CHINESE BUILDING AIR BASES NEAR MOULMEIN -- Rangoon, Hanthawaddy,
4 Jan 53

A 29 December 1952 release from the East Asia News Agency [sic] in Hong Kong stated that a major Chinese Communist military airfield is being built in the jungle near Moulmein, at a point about 44 miles from the China border; that a smaller military airfield is also being constructed in the same vicinity; and that the Chinese Communists will use both fields in collaborating with the Karen bandits of the area. This report is not fully accurate, and it is evident that someone is trying for some purpose to obscure matters. People from Western nations who have never been to Burma and who have merely heard this propaganda will probably believe it. But we who know better can smile at the statement that the Moulmein area is 44 miles from the China border. If an airfield is really being built in the Moulmein area, under the present circumstances, it could well be a KMT airfield. The report says the Chinese Communists and the Karen bandits are cooperating, but an instance of such cooperation has yet to be found. On the other hand, in the past, the KMTs and Karens have collaborated time and again.

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PRO-NATIONALISTS URGED TO HELP BURMA AVOID INCIDENTS -- Rangoon, Myanma
Alin, 3 Jan 53

On our fourth Independence Day celebration, 4 January 1952, the flag of the Chiang Kai-shek government was flown from the Chinese pavilion. Because the ambassador of the Mao Tse-tung government did not approve of this, he did not attend even the military exercises which the Union of Burma conducted in front of the City Hall. This situation put a noticeable damper on the whole celebration.

The KMT flag has not been recognized by the Burmese government. Moreover, KMT soldiers and Burmese forces are now fighting each other. It is thus quite evident that the KMTs are not at present friends of the Union of Burma. Therefore, we must conclude that the ambassador of the People's Republic of China had grounds for his protest. Besides, the Ministry of Home Affairs had sent out an advance order prohibiting public display of the KMT flag.

The fifth Independence Day is almost here now. Pavilions have been erected along the main streets of Rangoon. We do not know which flag will be unfurled from the Chinese pavilion. But we feel that the order of the Ministry of Home Affairs should be heeded. KMT flags should not be displayed: neither at the pavilion nor from private homes.

Under the present political conditions, where one side is diametrically opposed to the other, we would like to advise the Chinese in Burma that, regardless of their sympathies, it is important that they reside here without opposing the desires of the host country.

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